Armenia School Connectivity Program
CONNECTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

ASCP Awards Over $20,000 in Small Grants

Project Harmony-Armenia is pleased to announce the winners of the Armenia School Connectivity Program's Small Grants Program 2006-2007.

Project Harmony selected twenty-seven out of ninety-one proposals from all eleven regions of Armenia. The competition was open and merit-based, and winners were selected by a committee comprised of representatives from the US Embassy, Harmony Information Technologies, Education Development Fund and Project Harmony-Armenia. Many of the winning projects focus on themes relating to raising awareness about election procedures, promotion of democracy and civil society, strengthening of ties between schools, ICCs, and communities, and the creation of educational resources in the Armenian language. Projects will begin in October 2006 and continue through March 2007. The purpose of the small grants is for schools to take a lead role in implementing online and offline activities that benefit their Internet Computer Center, school, and community. With the transfer of the ASCP to the Government of Armenia, it is critical that schools have the tools, skills, and hands on experience to implement activities independently of Project Harmony and the Government of Armenia. Below is a complete list of award winners in alphabetical order.

LIST OF ASCP SMALL GRANT AWARD WINNERS

	Region:	School:	Proposed Project:
1	Ararat	Masis Secondary School #1 after M. Mashtots	Improving the Teaching of Civics Education
2	Armavir	Metsamor Secondary School #1	Raising Awareness on Election Campaign
3	Gegharkunik	Tretuk Secondary School	Free Trainings
4	Gegharkunik	Sevan Secondary School #7 after M. Mashtots	Historical and Cultural Monuments
5	Gegharkunik	Gavar Secondary School #3	School - University Collaboration
6	Gegharkunik	Zolakar Secondary School #2 after A. Vardanyan	Establishment of an ICC-Affiliated Movie Theatre

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	Region:	School:	Proposed Project:
7	Kotayk	Nor Artamet Secondary School	Creation of Armenian Language Educational Resources on Natural Sciences
8	Kotayk	Hrazdan Secondary School #1	Spreading Civic Society and Democracy Principles in the Community
9	Lori	Vanadzor Secondary School #1	Collaboration with Vanadzor Orphanage
10	Lori	Stepanavan Secondary School #3 after H. Tumanyan	Election Campaign and ICC
11	Lori	Vanadzor Secondary School #10 after Sayat-Nova	Let's Create Civil Society
12	Shirak	Gyumri Educational Complex #1	Volunteer Project
13	Shirak	Gyumri Secondary School #11	Professional Development of the Unemployed
14	Shirak	Gyumri State Pedagogical Institute Base College	Education for Democracy
15	Shirak	Gyumri Secondary School #26 after A. Isahakyan	Adults – Partners
16	Shirak	Gyumri Secondary School #29 after M. Mashtots	Creation of Armenian Language Resources; Digitization of Armenian Literature
17	Syunik	Kapan Secondary School #1	New Horizons
18	Syunik	Kapan Special School #1	Let's Further Youth Development
19	Syunik	Sisian Secondary School #2	Creation of Civil Society and Dissemination of Democratic Principles
20	Syunik	Sisian Special School #1	Let's Protect Our Future
21	Tavush	Aygepar Secondary School	Data Processing System
22	Vayots Dzor	Arpi Secondary School after V. Levonyan	Next Elections Are Ours
23	Vayots Dzor	Yeghegnadzor Secondary School #3	Your Voting Rights
24	Yerevan	Yerevan Secondary School #177 after G. Staravoytova	Legal Educational Informative Service in Avan district
25	Yerevan	Yerevan Secondary School #43 after G. Zohrap	School-Community Cooperation; Parents' University
26	Yerevan	Yerevan Secondary School # 69 after A. D. Sakharov	Active School in Active Community
27	Yerevan	CJSC "Educational Complex" Armenian National Lycee	Olympiada.am

English Language Center Opens in Syunik Region

On September 14, 2006, Goris School #3 held the official opening of the first English Language Center in the Syunik region. The event was attended by Patrick Hart, Director of the Armenia office of the Peace Corps, and Artashes Torozyan, Director of the Syunik branch of the National Institute of Education. The event also attracted local television station journalists, Peace Corps volunteers, teachers and students.

Goris School #3 has witnessed a sharp rise in the level of interest in English programs among students. Though English has been used as the language of instruction for eight years, the school wanted to tangibly promote their commitment to providing quality language training by creating an English Language Center. At the request of the school, the Peace Corps of Armenia served as a partner in this endeavor by assigning Susan Ball to the school, a native English speaker and Peace Corps volunteer. Initially, these English lessons were held at the school's ICC, but as the demand grew, the school's management designated a separate classroom to function as a temporary language center for the school and local community.

It was not until funding became available from the Peace Corps, that Peace Corps teacher

Peace Corps representatives at the English Language Center opening ceremony

Susan Ball, History educator Nelli Melkumyan, and an employee of the ICC, decided to draft a proposal to secure funds for an English Language Center. The awarding of the grant has enabled the school to purchase necessary equipment for the establishment and successful operation of the Center. ICC employees will be responsible for ensuring the smooth technical functioning of the center's information and communication technologies. They have also provided the Language Center with CDs containing a wide range of English language resources and lessons.

During the opening ceremony of the English Language Center, the school was pleased to share with the guests their vision for the future of the Center. Though there is much more to be done, it is rewarding to know that the English Language Center is off to a tremendous start.

Students attend the official opening of the English Language Center at Goris School #3

Ararat Region Breaks Minnie Disney Grants Record

Several schools in the Ararat region are actively participating in grant programs to increase the sustainability of their school programs. In the spirit of fostering this sustained development, Project Harmony is proud to announce that four grants have been received for ASCP network schools of the Ararat region this year. Under the ASCP, Project Harmony has provided sustainability training including training on developing grant proposals.

In April 2006, Artashat #4 and Kanachut Schools of the Ararat region received a Minnie Disney Grant targeting children ages 5-14. As a result of the award, Artashat School #4 planteda beautiful yard of 100 trees to increase environmental and community awareness. Kanachut School was also able to raise community awareness by proving a seminar on the important subject of HIV/AIDS.

This summer, some schools of the Ararat region also applied for a second round of Minnie Disney Grants. Two schools that applied – Pokr Vedi School and Kanachut School – received support and approval from the Youth Service America organization and will implement their grants in September 2006.

The school of Pokr Vedi presented an environmental project entitled *Cleaning the Shores of Lake Sevan*, to help create a sanitary place for people in the community to enjoy. School students, teachers and volunteers will conduct the shore clean-up and will then place informative signs and garbage bins around the shores of Lake Sevan.

The Kanachut School decided to focus on a socio-political theme for their proposal, and will soon be facilitating school elections to increase understanding of democracy and human rights. Students will organize free and fair elections consistent with impartial political processes, selecting observers from among community leaders and University students to ensure a smooth election.

Both projects will target high school volunteers, students, community members, and children ages 5-14, and aim to increase volunteerism among the children, and acknowledgement of the principles of human rights, democracy, and environmental preservation.

Gavar School #5 Publishes a Book About Modern American Writers

The Internet Computer Center (ICC) of Gavar School #5 provides a range of projects to teachers, students, and community members.

Pictured above is the book published by the Gavar School #5 Internet Computer Center about famous American writers

Among the more recent projects arranged by the ICC of Gavar School #5 was a program jointly implemented by a Peace Corps volunteer and the English department of Gavar State University. Through intensive research and language translation, the ICC was able to increase the number of ICC visitors and lay the groundwork for future cooperative links.

The students of the English Language department of Gavar State University were assigned to translate poems of modern American writers. The students started their projects with online research at the school ICC, exploring biographical information about influential American writers such as Robert Frost, Amy Lowell, Robinson Jeffers, E.E. Cummings, John Ashbery, Theodore Roethke, Sydney King Russell, Alberto Rios, and Edgar Lee Masters.

With the help of the ICC staff, the students then prepared papers that fused the comprehensive information they had extracted from the Internet with translated poems, producing a book entitled *American Poets of the 20th Century*. The poems contained in the book are available in both their original English language and the Armenian translations by the students. At the end of the book, there are also original poems by students in English and in Armenian.

The official presentation of the book took place at Gavar State University in September. All guests, including University lecturers, students and management, spoke highly of the book's success. Mkrtich Tenekejyan, Chair of Foreign Languages at the University, noted that "this book is a guide for the students and is a supplementary resource for learning more about modern American poets." Commenting on the process of completing the books, Anna Balagozyan, the school's English instructor, remarked, "Modern technologies give excellent opportunities for us to fulfill our dreams and wishes."

The Internet Computer Center published 30 copies of the book and will soon begin work on a similar text.

School Promotes IT Development

On September 5, 2006, a seminar devoted to the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in education took place in Yerevan Secondary School #27. The seminar explored the importance of integrating information technologies into the classroom in dynamic and engaging ways to help bring innovation into traditional and student-centered lessons. The seminar also addressed the need for supplemental classroom materials and tailoring lessons to specific students and student needs.

All the teachers in the school were present at the seminar, which was orchestrated by Hasmik Grigoryan, Vice Principal and French

School Principal Anahit Bakhshyan discusses the importance of Information and Communication Technology

teacher, and Armen Sargisyan, an employee of the Internet Computer Center, both of whom have extensive experience integrating ICT in daily teaching. Grigoryan and Sargisyan shared their experiences in creating interactive classrooms through a professionally prepared Power Point presentation. This PPT provided a visual demonstration of the impact of technology.

All teachers interested in learning more were invited to participate in computer training sessions in the school ICC.

The book of American writers includes both the original English version of the text and its translated version in Armenian

Vice Principal Hasmik Grigoryan presents her achievements in implementing ICT-focused education